

Application No. 09/591510 (Docket: MIPS.0141-00-US)
37 CFR 1.111 Amendment dated 01/03/2006
Reply to Office Action of 7/6/05

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 12-24 and 27-33 are pending in the application. The Examiner additionally stated that claims 12-24 and 27-33 are rejected. No claims have been canceled or amended. Hence, claims 12-24 and 27-33 are pending in the application.

Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments.

In the Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 12-24 and 27-33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Cawley, U.S. Patent No. 5,361,334 (hereinafter, Cawley). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Cawley does show a processor having multiple contexts, wherein the processor sends out "the appropriate memory request, *typically for a memory read or write*" see Col. 4, lines 61-63. However, Cawley does not teach "requesting the device to perform a *command* and *write return data* to a destination register..." The appropriate memory request sent by the processor P of Cawley is typically a read or a write. Nothing in Cawley teaches, suggests, or otherwise hints at a single instruction that not only commands a device to perform an operation, but also instructs the device to return data to the processor at a location associated with the originating context. As such, the claimed system and method require no second operation to return a value to a given thread for further processing. Certain advantages provided by such an instruction are noted in the Application at page 1, lines. 3-12:

The performance of conventional processors in network communication systems is degraded by long latency accesses, especially to shared resources. For example, in order to look up data in a table lookup unit, a processor must send an operation with data to the table lookup unit (TLU) commanding the TLU to look up data in a table. After performing the

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lookup operation, the TLU stores the resulting data internally. The processor sends a load command requesting that the TLU load the result on the bus and return the data to the processor. This procedure requires two bus transactions initiated by the processor. Therefore, it would be desirable to have a single transaction both command the device to perform an operation and provide the result to the processor.

The examiner states that Cawley teaches such command and write return in Col. 5, line 6. Column 5, lines 5-6 state:

**even numbered routers R and the receive bus RB. The
reply is applied to the respective register set R'1, R'2 .**

Nothing in this portion of Cawley, or any other portion for that matter, teaches, suggests, or otherwise hints at the single instruction that performs both a command, and a return data function, as claimed by applicant. For this reason, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12. All claims depending therefrom are also patentable over Cawley for at least the reason noted above.

With respect to claim 27, the Examiner indicated that it is equivalently rejected for the same reason as that of claim 12. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 for the reason stated above with respect to claim 12. All claims depending therefrom are also patentable over Cawley for at least the reason noted above.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the arguments advance above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-24 and 27-33 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested, and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Applicant earnestly requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone if the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning this amendment, the application, or allowance of any claims thereof.

I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.8 that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date of signature shown below.

Respectfully submitted,
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1/3/06

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